WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME:

5:00 pm, Tuesday, November 18, 2014

PLACE:

West Lafayette Public Library

PRESENT:

VISITORS:

Dave Buck

Vicki Burch

Karen O'Farrell

Chris Leroux

Doug Payne

Carrie Ehresman

Kumares Sinha

Larry Preo

Kathleen Mills

Anne Brown

Erin Cooper

Michael Susong

Ed Garrison

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order at 5:01pm and determined there was a quorum.

Ms. Burch made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2014 meeting. Ms. Mills seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Traffic Commission received a concern/suggestion via email and discussed the possibility of installing a crosswalk at Jefferson Street and Grant Street, to allow pedestrians to cross Grant Street.

Mr. Buck stated that the City would do some observations of the area and also talk to the school to understand how the traffic flow is when school starts and lets out.

OLD BUSINESS:

Northwestern Heights Speed Report:

Mr. Michael Susong with the City of West Lafayette came to discuss the speed report done by the Engineering Department in the Northwestern Heights subdivision. Mr. Susong presented the results to the Traffic Commission and gave recommendations on lowering the speed limit to 25mph throughout the neighborhood, as well as change the yield signs to stop signs for consistency purposes.

Chairman Sinha stated that the proposed speed limit recommendation is consistent with the neighborhood, but suggested that we talk to the residents in the neighborhood to discuss changing the yield signs to stop signs.

Several members of the Traffic Commission agreed with Chairman Sinha's suggestion to speak with the residents of the neighborhood before moving forward with any changes to yield and stop signs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Northwestern Pedestrian Crossing:

Chairman Sinha stated that he has received two emails expressing concerns about the Northwestern Pedestrian Crossing. The first concern is that the flashing yellow turn light is confusing for drivers. The second concern is that the planters in the middle of the median could be a trip hazard.

Mr. Buck stated that the flashing yellow arrow is something new that we will be seeing more of as it is a new standard in the MUTCD. Mr. Buck also stated that the reason for the planters in the median is to prevent U-turns by vehicles.

Chairman Sinha suggested that the traffic commission members read the emails that were submitted to the commission.

Northwestern Ave. / Wiggins St. turn:

Ms. Brown wanted to address the traffic flow as vehicles are going south on Northwestern after traveling through the Grant Street intersection. Ms. Brown stated that previously there were three lanes and has since been cut down to two lanes, and drivers don't realize that the left lane is a left turn only when they are wanting to go straight. Ms. Brown suggested the City install lane assignment signs.

Mr. Buck stated that the City has put down pavement markings to identify which lanes are turning lanes and which lanes continue straight. Mr. Buck also stated that the City plans to put signs at Grant St. as well as a set of overhead lane assignment signs at the Wiggins St. and Northwestern Ave. to identify lanes.

With no other business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, January 20th, 2015, Morton Community Center, Room 211.

Respectfully Submitted,

David M. Buck, P.E. Public Works Director

DMB/ec